

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:MSTERNER JJSISCO:D

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/S: - MR. PICKERING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

S E C R E T STATE 236808

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEFING

1. WE AGREE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE CONDUCT BRIEFING OF ALLIES ON MIDDLE EAST PRIOR TO DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY AT NAC MINISTERIAL. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE CALL MEETING OF NAC FOR DEC 5 FOR BRIEFING ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

A. STATUS OF CEASEFIRE. WITH EGYPTIAN STATEMENT THAT IT WAS DISCONTINUING MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE TALKS AT KILOMETER 101, THERE WERE COUPLE OF DAYS OF INTENSIFIED BUT STILL MINOR ARMED INCIDENTS BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS, PROBABLY STEMMING MAINLY FROM NERVOUSNESS ON BOTH SIDES THAT CEASEFIRE MIGHT BREAK DOWN. THERE IS SOME PROSPECT KILOMETER 101 TALKS WILL BE RESUMED, AND US IS WORKING TO THIS END. UN FORCE IS SLOWLY GETTING INTO PLACE BUT THE STRENGTH OF BOTH SIDES AND GENERAL NERVOUSNESS IS SUCH THAT CEASEFIRE WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL NURTURING.

B. PEACE CONFERENCE PLANS. IT LOOKS REASONABLY HOPEFUL PEACE CONFERENCE WILL CONVENE AT GENEVA ABOUT DEC 18.

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WE CANNOT REPORT FORMAL APPROVAL OF PARTIES AS YET SINCE NUMBER OF DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. WE AND SOVIETS HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH THROUGHOUT IN EFFORT TO WORK OUT DETAILS AND IN GENERAL SOVIET ATTITUDE HAS BEEN HELPFUL.

IN OUR VIEW MILREP TALKS HAVE BROKEN VALUABLE GROUND, WHICH SHOULD FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ISSUE AT PEACE CONFERENCE.

C. OIL EMBARGO. WE HAVE NO NEW DECISIONS BY OIL PRODUCERS TO REPORT AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS WE BELIEVE ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE WEIGHING WITH INCREASING SERIOUSNESS OUR STATEMENT THAT WE CANNOT PLAY ROLE THEY EXPECT US TO UNDER THREAT OF OIL EMBARGO. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM.

D. ON THE SYRIAN FRONT WE HAD HOPED THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON POW EXCHANGE WOULD PROMOTE SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH SYRIANS BUT AFTER SOME INITIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO IN EARLY NOVEMBER THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT PROGRESS TO REPORT.

E. SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP. SECRETARY IS PLANNING SECOND TRIP TO VARIOUS MIDDLE EAST CAPITALS BETWEEN HIS APPEARANCE AT NATO MINISTERIAL AND PROJECTED CONVENING OF PEACE CONFERENCE DEC 18. MAIN PURPOSE IN ALL CAPITALS WILL BE TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEACE CONFERENCE AND EXCHANGE IDEAS AS TO HOW CONFERENCE CAN BEST FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

F. SECRETARY WILL OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST DURING MINISTERIAL MEETING.

2. IN YOUR CONSULTATIONS YOU SHOULD STRIKE A STRAIGHTFORWARD FACTUAL APPROACH AVOIDING ANY APPEALS TO THE EUROPEANS TO COOPERATE. THIS MEETING SHOULD BE A FACTUAL RUN-DOWN AS TO WHERE MATTERS ARE, AND YOU SHOULD TRY TO AVOID CHARACTERIZING THESE FACTS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER OR SPECULATING ON THEM. MAKING IT STRICTLY A FACTUAL PRESENTATION WILL MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANY OF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE CAN BE DISTORTED IN ARAB CAPITALS TO OUR
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DETRIMENT. YOU SHOULD ALSO GET ACROSS POINT WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONVEYED BE HANDLED DISCREETLY AND IN CONFIDENTIAL MANNER. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE236808
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/EGY:MSTERNER JJSISCO:D
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750029-1458
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqcekbm.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <10-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, XF
To: NATO INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005